

**WCER JOINT POWERS BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 25, 2013**

Members Present: Eric Banks, Patti Johnson, Mike Miller, Bonnie Pehrson, Lynn Peterson, Rachel Smith, Darin Strand, Liz VanDerBill

Staff Present: Steve Brisendine, Rob Baumgarn, Brad Bonk, Christine Hilbert, Kevin Madsen, Jim Nicholson, Tammy Rudningen, Becky Sorenson, Jena Tollefson Charlene Stevens

Eric Banks, Chairman, opened the meeting by asking for introductions. He then asked Jim Nicholson to give his presentation on Adult Basic Education.

Jim spoke about the changes that have been instituted in ABE in the past year. Changing from an open enrollment to a managed enrollment has been good a very good move for our participants-program. ABE now offers three levels of ESL, beginning, intermediate and a more advanced class. The open enrollment plan created classroom chaos because the teacher never knew how many students would be attending or what their English level was, so a lot of time was spent on teaching the same material the following day for a new group of students. GED classes are still on an open enrollment basis but they now have their own classroom. The evening classes are still on an open enrollment basis. A computer lab has also been added. To add the computer room the childcare room was discontinued.

Jim stated he had been told to expect fewer students after the switch to managed enrollment but that has not happened so far. Student hours have increased from 29,441 in 2011 to 35,166 in 2012, while enrollment only dropped from 409 to 406.

Liz VanDerBill is the new School Board representative to the Joint Powers Board. She gave a quick bio and stated she is looking forward to serving on the School Board and the Joint Powers Board.

Steve discussed the proposed Amphitheatre at Robbins Island. In order to move this project forward it is believed that we need the professional services of an architect. Charlene Stevens stated that we would definitely need professional advice if we are to go forward with this project. Steve had received a written proposal from Andy Bjur with Engan & Associates for \$10,000 minus \$5,000 which they would consider their in-kind gift. Services received for this amount would be Pre-Design and Schematic Design. Kevin Madsen asked if the Kandiyohi County Fair Board had been approached. Steve said he had talked to Denny Baker who stated that the Fair Board is looking at possibly doing an Amphitheater project at the Fairgrounds. Another question asked was about rental fees. Steve stated that we would develop a rental fee structure for this facility just like any of our facilities in the system. Various groups such as the Barn Theatre, band and orchestra groups have been contacted regarding this project. In answer to another question, Charlene responded that the City would own and maintain the structure. A motion was made by Mike Miller to proceed and engage an architect for the proposed amphitheatre. Bonnie Pehrson seconded. The motion carried.

Mike Miller presented his request on behalf of the Willmar Curling Club for a liquor license for the March 8-10 BonSpiel tournament. It would again be run by the Oaks. After some discussion, Patti Johnson made a motion to approve the request of the Curling Club to serve liquor at their tournament. The motion was seconded and approved.

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Steve talked about Board membership. There have been three resignations, Doreen Keith, Mike Kubesh and Hal Beauvais. All are School appointees. Steve has talked to Nathan Streed who will also be looking for possible candidates. Rachel Smith asked about the requirements. Steve responded the need is for someone who, first of all, is interested in serving, and also to mirror the makeup of our community. There will be another opening in April as Jill James' term ends March 31. That would be a City appointment. Patti Johnson suggested asking instructors of Community Ed classes to gauge their interest.

Park Planning: Steve has talked to Bruce Peterson, City Planning & Development Director, because he feels that planning parks and new housing developments should go hand in hand. Steve stated that Mid Minnesota Development, who created the bike trail plan, has been asked to work on a park plan. Steve would like members from this Board to serve on a park planning committee. The main priority may need to be maintenance and refurbishing of existing parks besides park development. Steve asked if we need to have a park plan in place so new builders dedicate park space in their housing additions?

Kevin Madsen talked about the Arena; some remodeling has been completed. He is getting things in place and ready for the upcoming tournaments, especially the National Curling championship.

Rob Baumgarn stated we are gearing up for summer programs. He also stated that City Auditorium Gun Range usage is way up. In January, 26 out of 31 days are booked. Jim Anderson's Sunday tennis program has 80 participants. The City Council has reduced our budget by 16 percent so Rob and Brad are working on re-vamping our programs due to reduced staff.

Christine Hilbert told the Board that the Kiwanis Club had made the Child Guide program a partner in the Peanut Drive and presented a check for \$10,000 for Wheels for Kids. Christine has talked to Rick Norsten of Rick's Schwinn to let him know that we are not trying to be competition for his business, rather, we are trying to get bikes to those children who can't afford a bike. Christine stated she is also looking for volunteers to repair the bikes.

Brad Bonk is busy with adult leagues. Co-Rec and Women's Volleyball are starting playoffs next week. Hockey is finishing their regular season this week. Basketball and Men's Volleyball has two week left of the regular season.

Jena Tollefson told the Board that there are 230 children enrolled in Cardinal Place. She also handed out a flyer for a self defense class that Tammy had given her.

Steve handed out copies of the bylaws and joint powers agreement which need reconciling to each other since they don't match, mainly what constitutes a quorum. Steve will go over both forms and bring the revised forms to the next Board meeting.

At the last City Council meeting, Jim Dokken and Dale Johnson were assigned to head a committee to plan a celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the City Auditorium. We did have a float in last year's Willmar Fest Parade. A suggestion was made to celebrate the Memorial Day festivities at the City Auditorium.

The next Joint Powers Board meeting will be February 22. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.